Maternal Mortality in the country

493. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent UNICEF report indicating that a woman dies in every five minutes due to pregnacy and child related complications in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of maternity deaths for the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether Government have any plan to reduce the maternal mortality; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) UNICEF alongwith WHO and UNFPA has published data in the year 2000 based on which it has been estimated that India contributes 1,36,000 maternal deaths out of the total of 5,29,000 maternal deaths which occur globally every year which implies that one woman dies in every 5 minutes due to causes related to pregnancy and child birth.

(b) The major causes of maternal mortality are hemorrhage, puerperal complications, obstructed labour, unsafe abortion, toxemia of pregnacy and anaemia. Other factors that influence maternal mortality are socio-economic status of women, low level of education, economic dependency, lack of access to services, poverty and cultural misconceptions.

(c) State-wise and year-wise data on the number of maternal deaths is not available. However, Maternal Mortality Rates as estimated for major states by the Registrar General of India for the year 1997 and 1998 (Sample Registration System) are given in Statement. (*See* below)

(d) and (e) Yes, the Government has planned to reduce the maternal mortality in the country. As per the National Population Policy-2000 and National Health Policy-2002, the goal for reduction in maternal mortality rate has been kept at less than 100 per 100,000 live births.

Government of India is actively pursuing this goal under the national Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including Services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood. Teh mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. These States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years from 2005 to 2012. Under the NRHM, the services provided under the RCH Programme will be strenthened through:

* Implementation of the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) under which cash incentives and services are provided to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL). In case of Institutional delivery, in the low performing States benefits under the scheme is available to Non-BPL Pregnant Women also. The age bar and number of birth criteria has also been removed in these States.

* Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population up to 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing health care services to the community and will have specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal checks and immunization to children.

* Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health services.

* Making 50% Primary Health Centers functional for providing 24-hours delivery services, over the next five years.

* Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.

* Ensuring skilled attendance at every birth both in the community and the Institutions.

Statement

Maternal Mortality Rate for Major States for 1997-1998

(per 1,00,000 live births)

India and Bigger States

	1997	1998
India	408	407
Andhra Pradesh	154	159
Assam	401	409
Bihar	451	452
Gujarat	29	28
Haryana	105	103
Karnataka	195	195
Kerala	195	198
Madhya Pradesh	498	498
Maharashtra	135	135
Orissa	361	367
Punjab	196	199
Rajasthan	677	670
Tamil Nadu	76	79
Uttar Pradesh	707	707
West Bengal	264	266

Source: SRS

Registrar General's Office has discontinued the release of this data beyond 1998.

The estimates for the smaller states and UTs have not been presented by RGI due to small sample size.